

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's Visit to the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, why did you send Secretary Rumsfeld over to the Middle East to visit some countries?

The President. Pardon me, John [John Dickerson, Time]?

Q. Why did you send him, and what is he doing over there, visiting those countries?

The President. John, he's visiting with our friends. As you know, we've put together a broad coalition of nations that are interested in battling, joining us to battle terrorism. And Secretary Rumsfeld went over to visit with the leaders of a group of nations to share with them information, to discuss the determination of our Nation.

People need to be able to look us in the eye and know that when we say that we're in this for the long run, that we're going to find terrorism—terrorists and bring them to justice, we mean it; that this

is a nation—see, it's hard for people around the world to understand the resolve of America. They may hear my speech occasionally, but they need to look at the eyes—in the eyes of members of my administration, because—and hear them say that not only is this President resolved, but America is resolved to rout out terrorism, to make sure that legitimate governments can survive as we head into the 21st century, and to make a strong stand for freedom.

And Secretary Rumsfeld is going to do a fine job of delivering that message, because he knows exactly how I feel about the mission we have ahead of us.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the first floor rotunda of the Federal Hall National Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC.

*Exchange With Reporters in New York City
October 3, 2001*

President's Visit

Q. What's your message for New York, sir?

The President. My message for New York is they've got great leadership—got great leadership with the mayor, got great leadership with the Governor, and all of America is proud, proud of the resilience of this city, too. People are coming together. It's an amazing feeling to be here in New York City. On the one hand, you see the destruction; on the other hand, you see—feel the

compassion of a great city. I'm real proud to be here with my friends.

See you at the school.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:44 a.m. outside the Federal Hall National Memorial. In his remarks, the President referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.